



**Delaware Bicycle Council
June 7, 2006
DelDOT Administration Building
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Don Carbaugh, New Castle County Rep.
Tom Felice, DelDOT Representative
Thomas Hartley, Kent County Representative
Laura Madara, DNREC Representative
Doug Mills, Chair & New Castle County Representative
Amy Wilburn, At-Large Representative

DelDOT Support Staff Present

Anthony Aglio, Bike/Ped Coordinator
Kari Glanden, Administrative Assistant
Fritz Schranck, Deputy Attorney General, DelDOT

Members Absent

Fred Breukelman, Dept. of Public Health Rep.
Sgt. George Heberling, DE State Police Representative
Harry Isaacs, Jr., Council on Transportation
Judith Jeffers, At-Large Representative
Lisa Moore, Office of Highway Safety
John Ray, Department of Education
Robert Witsil, At-Large Representative

Guests Present

Stephen Bayer, DelDOT, Planning Department
Amy Hughes, National Multiple Sclerosis Society – DE Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of Guests

Doug called the meeting to order and requested guests to introduce themselves to the Council members, which included: Amy Hughes, from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society-DE Chapter.

Council Member Membership

Doug noted that the Greenway and Trails vacancy is still open and stated that this is currently in the works of being filled.

II. Old Business

Route 1 Third Lane Project Update

Anthony gave an update on what was going on with the project by stating there wasn't much change. The project was delayed because prices from the bid came in too high so the project is being re-bid. There are no changes to the project that Anthony is aware of, and all the striping and symbols are going to stay the same.

Fritz stated some lettering has been completed in the pave and rehab area south of the project. The real story on the bid prices, there was only one bidder for the project and he over bid the items by 2 million dollars.

Anthony stated the Sussex County Cyclists & Bike Delaware have sent in letters against striping, they want to remove buses from the shoulder, lower the speed limits and they want a straight line vs. a dotted line for the designated lane supported by Swartzcoft & Bunting. The project is about nearly completed; it is paved and partially striped. Bright Orange signs were posted in this area before Memorial Day.

Fritz stated to acquire a bike lane, unless a portion is designated to the bikeway or additional money is spent to buy the right of way land it wouldn't be possible. He said there is a signal at the outlet mall at Applebee's to use to get to the alternate access road so that bicyclist won't have to be on Rt. 1. The road leads to Rehoboth Ave.

Don mentioned putting up a sign suggesting use of this road as an access to Rehoboth Ave.

Fritz stated that from the pave and rehab project that wholesale placement of sidewalk ramps were put in place for the cyclist could use instead of "jumping" the curbs.

Newsletter

Doug request that Don still works on the letter.

Don stated that content is a problem when putting the newsletters out.

Doug stated that he would like the newsletters to be sent out quarterly, even if they are shorter letters. He would like activities to be placed in the content. He stated that the quarterly newsletters would be more visible for the Council. Doug suggested a meeting with Don C. Anthony and himself to discuss further.

Don C. stated they needed to see if they could come up with ways to cut costs of the newsletters.

Walt stated there were three areas, Glade, Cape Henlopen and Trap Pond that should make the newsletter. He would like to cover the Sussex County end of the newsletter. He would like to include Education Awareness on more off road places to ride.

Laura stated that the IMBA is patrolling the Brandywine State Park's off road Trails. They must comply with the same regulations as the other patrols. She stated that the council should ask Chaz Sulkin from Parks & Rec. to attend the next meeting to discuss off road trails.

HB 178 "Share the Road" License Plate Bill

Don stated that the bill will die at the end of June. It can be re-introduced next January.

SB58 Kids Bicycle Helmet Bill

Don mentioned to the Council that the Bill is almost sure to pass, it has cleared the house and it should be going on the agenda to be passed. This Bill increases the age limit from under 16 to under 18, it has more safety elements and the helmets will have to be safety certified.

Bike Council Check Book

Anthony informed the group that \$500. was used to pay the Biking Blue Hens, 500 bike lights were purchased, bought pizza for last council meeting and the balance will be zero by the end of the month.

Doug was enquiring about having sponsors. He asked Fritz how this could be done.

Fritz asked if Doug meant that if and how can this be done? Fritz stated that this is allowed and the sponsored may want modest publicity i.e. names on shirts. The money can be a bequest like a will. They can ask for a donation go to a specific program of the Department and then that is added to the allocation budget.

Don C. asked if there was any risk in doing this?

Fritz stated that a risk comes when the money comes in it can be recognized by the General Assembly and they may then say they don't need to allocate as much funds

as before. Another way to do this would be if an organization would agree to be a shepherd to the money, that way it won't be counted as Fiscal money.

Doug stated that he wants to meet with Fritz to get more information on this.

Other DelDOT Updates

Anthony shared with the group that the Elkton Road project is being redesigned to add bike lanes the entire length of the project (MD state line to Delaware Ave.) This is in the design final stage.

Anthony stated that WILMAPCO, City of Wilmington, New Castle County Rail Trails Developers will be meeting. If anyone is interested in attending the meeting let them know.

Don C. asked if the 295 overpass could be filled in?

Anthony stated that he didn't know. He is waiting for the meeting to hear any information on this.

Walt asked about the Henlopen Trail.

Anthony stated he is working with the developers to get it to Gill's Neck. This will follow sewer easement from the existing trail to Gill's Neck Road.

Bike Month Recaps

Doug informed the Council members that at the Legislator's ride everything went well. The Biking Blue Hens Bus was full.

Anthony said there were approximately 80 people in attendance.

Doug proposed that the Council ask for sponsors. He would like the Council try to have more visibility, have posters for the event. He gave ideas to make it an all day event with a rodeo, a fair, giveaways and even tours of Legislative hall. The event could last throughout the day so families could attend later. Tickets could be purchased and that would entitle the participant to food, a bus ride back, a t-shirt and goodies. Also the Council could ask for notable riders to be in attendance.

Amy stated that if the Council set a date earlier in advance that they may be able to gain more High School participation.

Doug stated that the tentative date for next year is May 9th, 2007.

Amy asked if we wanted more High School participation.

Doug stated that we do.

Fritz made the point that most High Schools have vans so they would have their own transportation back to the schools.

Amy proposed that the Council should get a deposit for riders wishing to use the bus for the ride back. This would get more of a commitment from the cyclists and provide the council with a more accurate number of who would be attending the event.

Don suggested a tour of Legislative Hall to justify the event for the school students.

Amy suggested that the Council give out certificates to the people who participated in the ride and the tour. The Council Chair and the Governor could sign this. The schools could also use the biking event as a fundraiser.

Doug stated they needed to get together to brainstorm more ideas.

Bike Week

Anthony stated that DelDOT attended two school fairs and the Blue Rocks Game.

Ride of Silence

Amy suggested that signage be put up for riders and spectators to know why the cyclists are riding. She believed there were about 75-80 people in attendance for the Newark Ride.

Doug said there was lower attendance then last year.

Anthony stated for last year there were 50 riders from Sussex County and this year there were only 35 for the Lewes Rehoboth Ride.

Ride to Work Day

Anthony stated there were 46 participants from TMA and 26 from DelDOT.

III New Business

Sussex County Bicycle Safety Fair

Anthony stated there will be a Safety Fair with Ocean Atlantic, University of Delaware, Delaware State Police, DelDOT and Sussex County Cyclists at Ocean Atlantic in Rehoboth on June 19th. Last year there were 1000 people in attendance. 900 Helmets were given away, 300 children participated in the rodeo and about 35 international students attended. A Monday was picked because more people are available and the logistics of the location. WBOC and the newspapers will be in attendance of this event. This year 60 bicycles will be given away and also helmets. We are looking for places to get the bicycles that are given away to be returned to at the end of the summer. Bicycles will be marked with stickers when they are checked. The bicycle return sites will have signs marking they are return station locations.

Doug asked if bike maintenance shops in the counties would participate.

Resort Area Bicycle Safety Checkpoints

Anthony stated that there are 13 checkpoints scheduled; two are from 10pm-2am at Rt. 26 in Ocean View. Anthony said if anyone from the Council would like to volunteer to help send him an email. He handed out the sheet with the dates, times and locations of each checkpoint. Sussex Cyclist are supposed to be helping with staffing. The State Police will be in attendance at the Rt. 1 stops. The stops will be northbound and southbound. We will be encouraging students to stop off the road, give them safety materials, provide minor maintenance of the bikes and hand out bike lights. There will be two tents one on each side of the roadway and he would like 6 people minimum to work these checkpoints.

Doug asked Anthony to send him an e-mail with the information.

Airline Ride

Anthony stated that the event happened in early May. Capt. Heidenberger rode from California to New York in support of 911. He wants to have another smaller ride in Mid July from Grasonville, MD to Dewey Beach, DE. He would like about 50 people to participate in the shorter ride. More information is provided at the www.airline.org website.

Doug stated that the Council would look into it and see what they could do.

New Castle County Pathways Plan

Steve Bayer stated that we are now in the process of displaying to the public the Pathways plans created on the Greenways committee. Over the past few months we have identified areas that already have non-motorized transportation corridors (be the sidewalks, multiuse paths, trails, etc.) and those that could use most of them (based on locations need and ability to connect to the larger systems). Maps associated with this plan are available for viewing on the WILMAPCO website. There is a public meeting tomorrow night at the Middletown Town Hall from 4:30pm-7: 30pm. There members of WILMAPCO will be explaining details of the plan to the public and displaying conceptual proposals for project areas.

Amy stated that Safe Kids sent a letter of Thank You to the Council. She said that the event was a success and 60 helmets were given away.

Amy also presented Anthony with pictures she had taken of the rotten Rt. 141 (between 52 & 48) Bike path.

Doug asked that they follow up and see if there is anything in plan in the corridor to fix this up. The path dumps into a bad spot.

Doug also stated that the next meeting was in August.

Meeting adjourned 6:26pm.